

# ONCE THE HOME OF WEALTH AND FASHION.

Sands Street, Brooklyn, Now Lined with Tenements, Shops and Boarding Houses.

Twenty Years Ago It Was the Most Swell and Picturesque Thoroughfare Over the River.

NOTED FAMILIES LIVED THERE.

Real Estate Dealers Now Trying to Buy Up the Entire Street Property for the Purpose, It is Stated, of Putting Up Big Factories and Tenements.

Real estate dealers in Brooklyn for the past month have been trying to buy up all the property on Sands street from the bridge to the Navy Yard. Almost every real estate owner along this thoroughfare has been approached by an agent or representative who, although refusing to talk seriously, has made the fact evident that some company was desirous of purchasing at least a controlling interest in what used to be one of the swell residence streets in Brooklyn town.

As it is now, Sands street doesn't amount to much either from a business or residence point of view, but twenty years ago, or in fact before the big bridge became a positive fact, it was one of the most picturesque and swell thoroughfares in the City of Churches. Just what the real estate dealers want of the property now is a question, but the fact that they do want it has caused prices to go up almost 50 per cent.

Where the bridge is now, there used to be conservatories, stores and residences, with great shade trees arching over the street, beneath which orange colored horse cars, drawn by sleepy animals, passed by at intervals of from five to ten minutes.

At that time the property was considered to be valuable, and in fact it was, but no one ever thought of it in connection with any business establishment, save for the small stores, which may be found in almost any neighborhood. Now almost all the old families have moved away, but in many instances the holdings have been retained by the estates. And it is an open secret that the property along the street will be worth ten times its original value within a short time. Notwithstanding this fact, much of the property has been sold for a comparatively small sum, and whoever the real estate agents are who are endeavoring to buy up the property, it is common talk that they are working for a company which intends to erect factories and tenement houses which will employ and house several thousand people.

When Sands street was one of the aristocratic thoroughfares of Brooklyn, almost every house was occupied by some one of importance financially. There are only one or two of the "old timers" residing there. Mr. James Littlejohn, who lives at No. 88 Sands street, with only a retinue of servants in the house, is one of the most interesting old-timers in existence. His home, a frame structure, might be passed unnoticed in the whirl of trolley cars and trucks, and the mass of humanity on foot, which goes by at all hours of the day and night. Without Mr. Littlejohn's residence, somewhat unattractive, but within it is a luxurious study. Mr. Littlejohn owns considerable of the property in the neighborhood, and although he lives alone with his servants his only pleasure seems to be in furthering the happiness of his grand-children, who are all prosperous, and think there is no one on earth like Grandpa James. He wears an old-fashioned top hat, and the house in which he lives even if they run an elevated railroad over its very roof.

The corner of Sands and Washington streets, which is now the centre of trolley cars and confusion, before the bridge was completed was a scene of domestic peace. There was a drug store on the corner, conducted by the late Coroner Menninger, who also owned one at the corner of Sands and Jay streets. Three blocks away, across the street was a sort of a private park, in which numerous smoking bean trees flourished to the delight of all the small boys in the neighborhood. On either side of the street were the residences of wealthy merchants, men of prominence in all lines, and women who have since become famous. At the corner of Sands and Adams streets lived Dr. Thorne, who though an old man when Sands street was in its palmiest days, always enjoyed the reputation of being the most gallant escort in the neighborhood. His home, now a tenement house, with a saloon on the ground floor, was a curiosity shop, so far as the fine arts were concerned. His

## CHEAPER TO BUY THAN TO RENT.



Ten of these full size square pianos, in good order, at \$55 each—\$4 monthly. Six 7 oct. second-hand uprights at \$90 each—\$5 monthly.

## WISSNER HALL,

294-296-298 FULTON ST., BROOKLYN. UPTOWN WAREHOUSES, 539 FULTON ST. FACTORY AND WAREHOUSE, 552 TO 558 STATE ST., CORNER PLAT-BUSH AVE., BROOKLYN. WISSNER HALL, 611 BROAD ST., NEWARK, N. J.; 80 MONTGOMERY ST., JERSEY CITY. WESTERN BRANCH, 22-24 VAN BUREN ST., CHICAGO.

## ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK.

NO MONEY DOWN REQUIRED.

Everything for housekeeping. Make your terms. The finest and best assorted stock in the city. We never take advantage of customers who get in arrears through no fault of theirs. Call and see for yourself.

## LONG ISLAND FURNITURE CO.,

46 TO 48 MYRTLE AVE., BROOKLYN, N. Y. 2 doors from Pearl St. Open Until 10 P. M., Saturdays.

originals of most of the famous old masters brought a good sized fortune alone when the exquisite furnishings of the famous old house were sold, subsequent to the Doctor's death.

Across the street from the Doctor lived the luxurious Isaac Bader, at one time tax collector in Brooklyn, and who, it is said, lived at a rate so far beyond his income, that he had to borrow from the city to such an extent as to get into unlimited trouble. At any rate, his house, now a most ordinary boarding establishment, vied with Dr. Thorne's home in its extravagance, and for years was the scene of an unlimited number of social affairs which were sufficient to form the foundations of as many novels.

Henry N. Conkila, the wealthy lumber merchant, who disappeared one day fifteen years ago and never has been heard of since, lived at No. 88 Sands street. His home was the scene of many gay social



LIGHT IN THE WINDOW FOR JOHN Y. M'KANE.

The devoted wife of the ex-boss of Gravesend hopes that Governor Morton will pardon her husband soon, and, thinking that he may return after sunset, she nightly places a light in the window to guide him to his home.

events, James Brady, the fur manufacturer, resided at No. 52 Sands street, and a dozen other wealthy men whose children are well known in society and in Wall Street helped to make up the elite colony.

On the southeast corner of Sands and Jay streets, lived Pitt Cooke, brother of Jay Cooke, the railroad magnate who was a chum of Jim Fisk and Jay Gould. His home was a miniature palace, and his children were attended as the children of princes and princesses. His retinue of servants included almost as many as that which Victorio Li Hung Chang took with him to the Hotel Waldorf when he was in New York. Across the street lived the late Dr. Joseph M. Homiston, surgeon of the Fourteenth Regiment, and at that time a very wealthy man. His home, which was elaborate in all its appointments, is now a grocery warehouse.

Two doors below lived the late General John B. Woodward, who died less than a year ago worth considerable money. He was born at No. 100 Sands street; also his brother, Colonel Robert B. Woodward, and their father, "Uncle Tom," as every one called him, who was the most aristocratic and best natured resident in the neighborhood. Charles W. Blackburne, a wealthy young broker, still retains his residence in the old district, and probably will for years yet to come.

There will be a meeting of property holders called during the week, to take some action on the proposition of the real estate dealers' representatives, but it is stated on good authority that some of the old residents, for instance Mr. Littlejohn and the Blackburnes, will not sell under any circumstances.

## Plays at the Brooklyn Theatres.

Maggie Cline, the Brunhilde of the Bowery, is following a line of action quite different from that pursued by many of her old-time associates on the vaudeville stage. She has jumped from the case of a twenty-minute sketch to the responsibilities attached to the stellar head of a dramatic company, under the banner of the fact that actors and actresses by the score are forsaking the drudgery of the drama for the peace and plenty which they believe are to be found only by specialty performers.

are known as Murray and Mack, and "Pin-nequin's Courtship" is the title of the play in which they appear. To-morrow night will see them at the Grand, and those persons who admire the knock-em-down-and-drag-'em-out style of vaudeville farce will find much to entertain them in this specimen.

### BIJOU THEATRE.

Under the decidedly misleading name of "Oriental America," Manager Isham has organized a troupe of colored men and women, who gave an entertainment which is both unique and artistic. Several of the vocalists possess voices of superior quality, the accessory costumes and scenery are elaborate in design and costly in material, and, in addition to the splendid singing, there is considerable of comedy and of dancing. It will come to the Bijou to-morrow night for a week, and it will surprise and delight those who see it.

## WITHSTOOD FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS.

While He Lived Slane Refused to Sell His Property to the Standard Oil People.

They Built Tanks About His Two Houses and He Compelled Them to Put Up Fire Walls

FLAMES NEVER TOUCHED THEM

Once the Houses Were Partly Wrecked by an Explosion—Now Slane Is Dead, and His Heirs Have Sold the Property to the Trust for \$10,000.

The Standard Oil Company recently purchased for the sum of \$10,000, from the heirs of the late Terence Slane, two houses and the plots of ground on which they stand, at Kent avenue and North Twelfth street, Williamsburg. The sale revives an old story. The Standard Oil Company for years has tried to get possession of Slane's property. The works of the Pratt Manufacturing Company, on Kent avenue, adjoin the houses.

About fifteen years ago the management of the works decided to increase their already large plant, the major part of which was opposite a row of frame houses on Kent avenue. They purchased at good prices all of this row with the exception of those owned by the late Terence Slane. The latter would not dispose of what he had worked hard for, and what he called home. To compel Slane to sell his property, it is alleged, the building of the addition to the plant was begun, with the result that large tanks filled with oil were placed against one of Slane's houses. He compelled the company to erect high walls about these tanks, so that in case of fire in the works his property would be in a measure protected.

Since the addition to the oil works there has been a score of fires, and on many occasions Slane and his family have been rudely awakened at night by loud explosions. Several times their home has rocked, as does a ship at sea, but for all that Slane persisted in holding on to his property.

At a recent fire in the works the house occupied by the family was wrecked. Windows were broken, ceilings fell, and walls were cracked after the explosion of an oil accumulator. Houses for miles around shook from the terrible concussion, and glaziers were kept at work several days after the fire replacing broken windows.

When Slane died he made no mention, so far as is known, as to whether his family should sell his property to the Standard Oil Company or not; but after a conference last week it was sold for \$10,000, and work will begin to remove the two buildings that have withstood the many oil fires. The work of tearing down the old buildings will be begun during the week, and oil tanks will take their places.

"TO GUIDE JOHN HOME." The Light in the Window That the Devoted Wife of John Y. McKane Cares for Nightly.

Should curiosity prompt you, go to Sheepshead Bay some night or morning before the bright, warm sunshine has yet absorbed the dew and ask to be shown the "light of sorrow." Most any one you meet will tell you to walk up to Voorhes avenue and turn down to the left for a distance of about three blocks. That is all the directions necessary, for ahead, shining at the bay window, you will be guided to the proper destination. For blocks away you may be able to distinguish its glare.

In the old-fashioned bay window the light that shines so brightly, your informant will explain, is the light that awaits the protracted coming of the king that is dead, yet living, John Y. McKane. And he will also tell you why and who places it there where it shines like a beacon. He will tell you it is the poor, thin, nervous hands of the ex-king's wife who places it there. He will tell you, too, that the dear, old lady is slowly breaking down, both mentally and physically, and it is now the belief of the faithful woman, after nearly two years of mental anguish, that "John is coming home to-night," and the light is there to guide him.

Each night, when the dark shadows begin to envelop the heavens, she arises from her bed and lights that lamp in the window. Then a pleasant smile illuminates her face that is wrinkled now by constant weeping, and she mutters: "John will be home to-night, this light will guide him." She shuffles to the bay window and tenderly places the lamp upon the spot it has remained since her mind first began to fall, several months ago. Then she sighs, gives one longing glance through the window and turns away, weeping and muttering: "Will John come home to-night?"

## JUSTICE NOSTRAND AN EASY VICTIM.

Bit at a Catch Joke and Promptly Paid for a Basket of Wine.

A Pretty Young Woman Cleverly Led Him Into Making a Wager.

HE WAS ONE OF A RIDING PARTY.

At a Road House He Didn't Believe That a Black Lead Pencil Could Write Four Different Colors and Backed His Opinion—Soon Convinced.

Police Justice Nostrand, of the Coney Island Court, paid for a basket of wine for a party of ladies at Bader's Hotel, on the Boulevard, a few nights ago.

The proprietor of the road house, George Bader, recently had some triangular lead pencils made, with red, white and blue enamelled sides.

Justice Nostrand was in a riding party that stopped at Bader's for refreshments a few nights ago. Mr. Bader knew that Justice Nostrand can take a joke, and let one of the pretty young ladies in on the catch.

"Did you ever see this trick pencil?" asked the young woman, the Justice, taking the pencil from the daintily gloved hand of the young woman.

"Why, it's all the rage," added the young woman. "It can write any one of the four colors I name—red, white, blue or black."

"Nonsense!" exclaimed the Justice, using the lead on some paper. "It can only write black."

"Touch the spring at the rubber end," suggested the young woman, with a merry laugh, "and wish for the color you want to write, and see the transformation."

"That's ridiculous," said the Justice; "there is no spring here. You are simply giving me before the party. Write red."

There was a general laugh as the pretty young woman took the pencil in her daintily gloved hand, and traced on a piece of paper the letters:

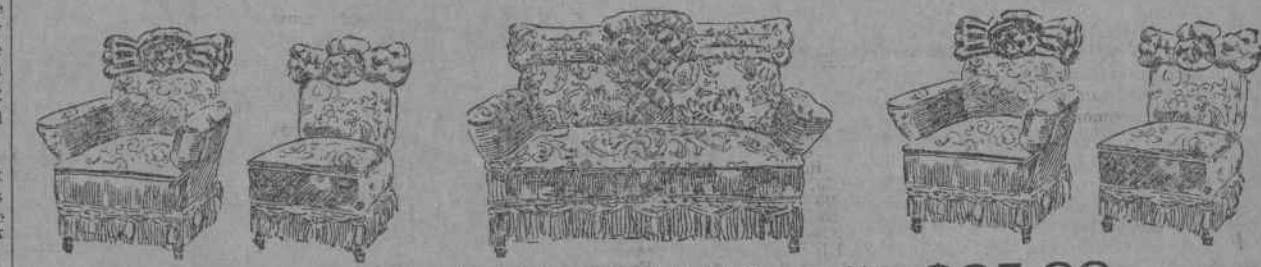
R-E-D.

Justice Nostrand said no more. He simply ordered a bottle of wine.

## THIS WEEK THE BIGGEST PARLOR SUIT SALE

EVER INAUGURATED WILL START AT

## WHALEN BROTHERS.



Magnificent Overstuffed Suits, Never sold for less than \$50.00; Our Price, \$35.00.



All the latest styles Men's Outwear Suits, in Fall and Winter All the newest patterns, correct in shape, \$25.00 up, \$35.00 up.

Solid Oak Bedroom Suit, handsomely carved, \$14.00 up.

Beautiful Cherry Frame Suits, endless variety, worth \$40 to \$70; our price, \$18.00 to \$30.00.

Misses' and Children's Boys' Double-breasted Suits and Jackets, in every-day Suits, made to suit in designs and stand rough wear, \$2.50 up. \$1.50 up.

Latest Fall and Winter Tailor-made Suits, Front Recker Suit, body broderie on Jacket, lined with changeable silk, from \$5.00 up. \$7 up.

Tight-fitting, fancy Tailor-made Cloth Braid one-piece Suits, lined with fancy silk, \$7 up.

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LARGEST STOCK IN THE COUNTRY TO SELECT FROM.



\$2.00

Solid Oak, Large Size, Polished.

\$1.75

Folding Card Table, Antique Oak.

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Solid Oak Work Tables.

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Antique Oak Folding Card Table.

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24 inch, Square Top Solid Table.

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Highly polished, 25-inch Top, Solid Oak, Serpentine Top.

Cash or Liberal Credit.

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FURNITURE, CARPETS AND HOUSE FURNISHING,

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Newtown, Corona, Maspeth and Meeker ave. cars pass our door. Get off Broadway and Nassau cars at Driggs Avenue and walk short distance to Grand St. Crosstown cars pass our corner.

CAR FARE GIVEN TO ALL PURCHASERS.